

In the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

- 1-2. (Canceled)
3. (Currently amended) A magnetic head assembly comprising:
 - a ~~flexible~~-flexure comprising a slider fixed thereto and having an electro-magnetic conversion element integrally therewith; and
 - a load beam for mounting the flexure,
 - wherein the flexure comprises a junction piece protruded from an edge of the flexure for joining the load beam and a main flexure having a cleavage part that is cleaved upon exertion of an external force pulling the main flexure in a leading end direction in a state that the junction piece is left joined to the load beam.
4. (Canceled)
5. (Currently Amended) An assembly according to Claim ~~23~~, wherein the main flexure comprises a flexible printed circuit board for connecting between a first terminal of the electro-magnetic conversion element of the slider and an electronic component to be mounted, and the flexible printed circuit board is fixed to the load beam, and
 - wherein when the main flexure is removed from the load beam in a state that the flexible printed circuit board is fixed, a portion between the load beam and the main flexure is cleaved.
6. (Currently Amended) An assembly according to Claim ~~5~~12, wherein a first flexible printed circuit board is provided on the load beam and the sub-flexure comprises a second flexible printed circuit board for connecting between~~connected to~~ a second terminal of the electro-magnetic conversion element of the slider and a conduction pattern corresponding to the flexible printed circuit board~~remained in the load beam~~.
7. (Withdrawn) A method for manufacturing a magnetic head assembly, the manufacturing method for mounting a flexible flexure, which supports a slider having an

electro-magnetic conversion element integrally, on a load beam, the method comprising the steps of:

detachably joining a main flexure, which has a junction piece for joining the load beam, to the load beam with the junction piece therebetween;

inspecting characteristics by floating the electro-magnetic conversion element onto a magnetic disc;

when the characteristics do not satisfy a reference as a result of the inspection,

removing the main flexure by applying a pulling force to the main flexure so as to detach the junction piece from the load beam; and

at least one time joining a sub-flexure, which has a junction piece located at a position different from that of the junction piece of the main flexure, to the load beam, from which the main flexure is detached, at the junction position.

8. (Withdrawn) A method according to Claim 7, wherein the main flexure comprises a flexible printed circuit board for connecting between the electro-magnetic conversion element and an electronic circuit for mounting on the magnetic head assembly,

the method further comprising:

fixing the flexible printed circuit board, located on the load beam, to the load beam after the step of detachably joining the main flexure to the load beam with the junction piece therebetween;

cleaving the flexible printed circuit board at a boundary between the portion fixed to the load beam and the main flexure, which is included in the step of removing the main flexure by applying a pulling force to the main flexure so as to detach the junction piece from the load beam; and

connecting an end terminal of the flexible printed circuit board, which is connected to the electro-magnetic conversion element of the sub-flexure, to a conduction part corresponding to the flexible printed circuit board fixed to the load beam after the step of joining the sub-flexure to the load beam.

9. (Withdrawn) A method for manufacturing a magnetic head assembly, the manufacturing method for mounting a flexible flexure, which has a slider fixed thereto and having an electro-magnetic conversion element integrally, on a load beam, the method comprising the steps of:

joining a main flexure, which has a junction piece for joining the load beam, to the load beam with the junction piece therebetween;

inspecting characteristics by floating the electro-magnetic conversion element onto a magnetic disc;

when the characteristics do not satisfy a reference as a result of the inspection,

removing the main flexure from the load beam by cleaving the main flexure at a cleavage part disposed in a vicinity of the junction piece; and

at least one time joining a sub-flexure, which can be joined at a position different from that of the junction piece, to the load beam, from which the main flexure is removed so as to leave the junction piece.

10. (Withdrawn) A method according to Claim 9, wherein the main flexure comprises a flexible printed circuit board for connecting between the electro-magnetic conversion element and an electronic component for mounting on the magnetic head assembly,

the method further comprising:

fixing the flexible printed circuit board, located on the load beam, to the load beam after the step of joining the main flexure to the load beam with the junction piece therebetween;

cleaving the flexible printed circuit board at a boundary between the portion fixed to the load beam and the main flexure, which is included in the step of removing the main flexure from the load beam by cleaving the main flexure at the cleavage part disposed in the vicinity of the junction piece; and

connecting an end terminal of the flexible printed circuit board, which is connected to the electro-magnetic conversion element of the sub-flexure, to a conduction part corresponding to the flexible printed circuit board fixed to the load beam after the step of joining the sub-flexure to the load beam.

11. (New) A magnetic head assembly according to Claim 3, wherein the cleavage part is selected from the group consisting of a perforation, a kerf, and a constriction.

12. (New) A magnetic head assembly comprising:
a flexure comprising a slider fixed thereto and having an electro-magnetic conversion element integrally therewith; and
a load beam for mounting the flexure,
wherein the flexure is a sub-flexure and a junction piece of a main flexure that is cleaved at a cleavage part of the main flexure remains on the load beam, the sub-flexure being joined to the load beam at a position different from the junction piece of the main flexure.